

## Edwards Secures Funding for Brazos County Law Enforcement and A&M Program that Trained Officer that Stopped Ft. Hood Shooter in 2011 Appropriations Bill

(WASHINGTON, DC) – Congressman Chet Edwards announced that he has secured federal funding for Brazos County law enforcement and Texas A&M in the 2011 Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) Appropriations bill, which passed its respective subcommittee this week.

At the request of Texas A&M, Edwards added \$1.5 million for the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) program at Texas A&M. This program, administered by the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) provides critical training for law enforcement officers, National Guard, Reserve and Active Duty service members who are the first to respond to acts of violence in our communities. Over 17,000 officers have engaged in this effective training since 2002 including 500 officers in the Brazos Valley and throughout Edwards' 17th district. **Sergeant Kimberly Munley, the officer who stopped the gunman at Fort Hood, was trained by the ALERRT program.** In addition to the \$1.5 million added by Edwards to the 2011 bill, Edwards has secured \$2.5 million for ALERRT since 2005.

**Congressman Edwards** said, *"This vital homeland security program at Texas A&M plays an integral role in saving the lives of our citizens and our police officers as they respond to a wide array of dangerous law enforcement situations. ALEERT has trained over 500 law enforcement personnel in District 17 as well as Sergeant Kimberly Munley, the brave officer who used her training to stop the gunman at Fort Hood. The training provided by ALERRT will help law enforcement quickly respond to protect our communities in the event of a violent attack."*

Edwards also secured \$300,000 at the request of Brazos County law enforcement for a computerized warrant database search program to manage all warrant databases in Brazos County. This is a joint project between Bryan and College Station Police Departments and the Brazos County Sheriff's Office. This database allows law enforcement officers to be more efficient when conducting a warrant search on suspected violators. A computerized warrant search program ensures that any warrants held by a law enforcement agency will be accessible to all law enforcement agencies utilizing the search program.

*"I believe we have an obligation to work closely with local law enforcement to protect our families, and this will help Brazos County law enforcement work together to keep our communities safe,"* **said Edwards.**

**Bryan Police Chief Eric Buske** said, *"The Bryan Police Department appreciates the efforts of Congressmen Edwards to secure this funding. The benefit of having an integrated warrant database to manage all warrant databases in Brazos County is twofold. First, it allows law enforcement officers to be more efficient when conducting a warrant search on suspected violators. A single point of access for searching multiple databases will expedite the warrant check process. Second, a computerized warrant search program ensures that any warrants held by a law enforcement agency will be accessible to all law enforcement agencies utilizing the search program. This awareness greatly enhances peace officer safety when interacting with individuals who have warrants from other jurisdictions."*

**Brazos County Sheriff Chris Kirk** said, *"This warrant database is something we've needed for a number of years. We have worked together with the police departments and I'm happy to*

*have worked together to make this project happen.”*

**College Station Chief of Police Jeff Capps said,** *“We are thrilled with the news today as it relates to the \$300,000 that will be available for use to build a regional warrant data base here in Brazos County. The need to be able to share timely information among the local agencies is significant in our ability to address crime and deal with known offenders in our community. This funding will greatly enhance our ability to develop and create a regional warrant database which will benefit all agencies and our community as a whole as we continue to work towards the common goal of reducing crime and improving the overall quality of life.”*

The Commerce, Justice, and Science bill must still pass the House and Senate and be signed by the President.